#### CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

## Council of the Faculty of Arts and Science

# Minutes of the meeting held on Friday, January 12, 1990

Present:

C. Bertrand, Chair; E. Gardham; P. Regimbald; J. Appleby; P. Albert; D. Dicks; S. Ruby; R. Long; J. Gavin; P. Widden; E. Preston; W. Gardiner; W. Knitter; D. Sheps; R. Kilgour; C. Levy; D. Frost; H. deRomer; G. Decarie; R. Perigoe; G. Fisher; W. Byers; A. Planells; C. Gray; R. Sharma; M. Poirier; C. White; M. Giguere; G. Newsham; C. Potworowski; M. Brian; G. Trudel; H. Shulman; C. Davis; D. Shapiro; S. Lanthier-O'Connor; J. Brown; B. Goodman; R. Gossen.

Regrets:

E. Budik; H. McLachlan.

Absent:

G. Valaskakis; M. Szabo; H. McQueen; Z. Hamlet; I. Robinson; J. Drysdale; S. Hoecker-Drysdale; G. Szamosi; C. Ragaven; B. Cohen; J. Costello; H. Desbarais; Y-I. Khoury; S. Letovsky; M. Sullivan; R. Dyotte; B. Leonhardt; D. Linder; M. Moser.

# Documents considered and distributed at this meeting

ASFC 90-1M-A Election/Ratification - Arts and Science Faculty Committees

ASFC 90-1M-B

Clarification of the GPA - The 1989-90 GPA Task Force

ASFC 90-1M-C

Double Majors in the Faculty of Arts and Science

#### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1335.

#### Approval of Agenda

90-1-1 It was moved and seconded (White/Widden) that the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

3. Closed Session - June 1990 Honorary Degree Recipients



Open Session - Approval of Minutes of October 13 and 20, 1989

90-1-3 It was moved and seconded (Planells/Trudel) that the minutes of October 13, 1989, be approved.

CARRIED as amended.

90-1-4 It was moved and seconded (Levy/Davis) that the minutes of October 20, 1989, be approved.

CARRIED

## 5. Remarks from the Chair

The Dean wished Council members a happy and prosperous 1990. He informed the members that Bill Spanos had moved to a position in the Faculty of Commerce and Administration. Resulting from the absence of an Assistant, the Dean asked for Council's indulgence in the event of administrative delays in the handling of Council business.

## 6. Questions and Announcements

Goodman inquired as to when Vice-Dean Ruby would be discussing the grade inflation issue and the <u>Link</u> article. Ruby stated that her response had already been published by the <u>Link</u>.

# 7. Election/Ratification - Arts and Science Faculty Committees

#### ARTS AND SCIENCE FACULTY COUNCIL

Two (2) graduate students (1 year terms)

Ruben Calderon (M.A. - Economics)
Ruth Hull (M.Sc. - Ecotoxicology)

#### RATIFIED

#### ARTS AND SCIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON COMPUTERS

One (1) graduate student (1 year term)

Dann Mulema (M.A. - Ed. Tech.)

#### RATIFIED

#### ARTS AND SCIENCE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

(One (1) full-time faculty member (3 year term)

Dr. Mary Vipond (HIST)

#### ELECTED

One (1) graduate student (1 year term)

James Cincotta (M.A. - Education)

#### RATIFIED

#### ARTS AND SCIENCE FACULTY COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

One (1) graduate student (1 year term)

Lorrie Sippola (M.A. - Applied Psychology)

#### RATIFIED

#### PART-TIME FACULTY ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Three (3) part-time faculty members (1 year terms)

Marilyn Sims (ENGL) Linda Dydyk (ENGL) Omer Sher (ECON)

#### ACCLAIMED

#### SUB COMMITTEE OF SENATE ON THE UNIVERSITY WRITING TEST

Barry Goodman

#### ACCLAIMED

## LIBRARY COUNCIL

(One (1) full-time faculty member (2 year term)

Dr. Lionel Sanders (CLAS)

#### ACCLAIMED

Notice of Election

## BOARD OF GRADUATE STUDIES

One (1) full-time faculty member - to replace Dr. N. Belmore (on sabbatical) for six months (January 1 to June 30, 1990).

One (1) full-time faculty member - to replace Dr. W. Reimer (time conflicts) for the remainder of the term ending May 31, 1990.

#### SENATE

One (1) full-time faculty member (three year term ending May 31, 1992) to replace Prof. D. Sheps who had resigned.

# ADVISORY SEARCH COMMITTEES FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSON FOR 1989-90

Department Current Chair - term ending

May 31, 1990

Exercise Science Dr. William Sellers

History Dr. Malcolm Graeme Decarie

Sociology & Anthropology Dr. John Drysdale

Communication Studies

Dr. William Lambert Gardiner (Acting)

Modern Languages and Linguistics

Dr. Charles Barton

Teaching English as a Second Language

Dr. Bruce Barkman

Psychology

Dr. Thomas Gray

ADVISORY SEARCH COMMITTEES FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF PRINCIPAL/DIRECTOR FOR 1989-90

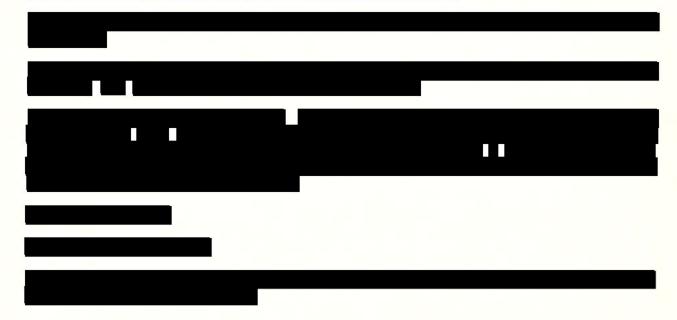
Name

Current Principal/Director - Term ending May 31, 1990

Lonergan University College Dr. Charles Davis

The Dean asked Council Members to have their nominations in his office in time for the Steering Committee Meeting on January 31, 1990.

## 3. Closed Session - June 1990 Honorary Degree Recipients



## CARRIED

## 8. Clarification of the GPA - The 1989-90 GPA Task Force

The Dean informed Council that the Chairs and the Steering Committee felt that a Task Force should be formed to study the implications of the implementation of the GPA. He had sent a letter on November 10, 1989 to all full-time faculty members, and to the Presidents of each Departmental Student Association, advising them of the establishment of such a Task Force. The Task Force would initially examine the implications of the GPA on advising and on the role that departments should play in that process. It would also consider implications of the GPA on teaching, admissions quotas/standards, tutoring, remedial help, and other areas that the Task Force and/or Council might deem appropriate. He noted that he had received the names of faculty members prepared to serve on the Task Force and that Document ASFC 90-1M-B listed the faculty membership. He then asked the students to present the names of their representatives as soon as possible.

90-1-7 It was moved and seconded (Widden/Knitter) that

Dr. Jan H. Bauer (PSYC) Mr. Harry Hill (ENGL) Dr. Kailash K. Anand (MATH) Dr. Ramesh C. Sharma (PHYS) Ms. Joanne Locke (LIBS) Dr. Muriel Herrington (BIOL) Dr. Patricia Thornton (GEOG) Dr. Franziska Shlosser (HIST)

be appointed as members of the 1989-90 GPA Task Force.

#### CARRIED

Sharmo proposed an amendment to the mandate of the Task Force to include consideration of all aspects of the GPA.

The Dean agreed to discuss the mandate of the Task Force, but not whether the GPA should be in existence.

Decarie pointed out that the mandate was to consider all aspects of the GPA regulation, which would include deciding whether in fact it should be reconsidered.

The Dean responded that the word "aspects" did not appear in the mandate. His memo very clearly stated "implications", a word that had been very carefully chosen.

Knitter asked if the the whole of the GPA could possibly be reconsidered if, after several meetings, the Task Force wanted to bring an issue back to Council.

The Dean responded that the possibility did exist.

Sharma asked if restrictions would be placed on what could be discussed by the Committee members.

The Dean explained that Council had spent a year-and-a-half debating whether or not a GPA requirement should be implemented. The fact that problems would arise in implementing a GPA was well recognized throughout, and while some were opposed to the GPA, the decision was was arrived at by democratic process. He felt it was premature to worry about whether or not the decision was correct. It was not premature, however, to worry about how students involved in the process could be best helped as the process unfolded. He stressed that time was a major factor, and that it would be unwise, come the month of May, not to have a mechanism in place to help students faced with problems.

Shapiro felt that the mandate of the Task Force should explicitly exclude reconsideration of the GPA.

Vice-Dean Ruby felt that if a Committee that large was to be productive at all, it would have to establish priorities so that there could be some positive results in the limited time available.

The Dean pointed out that his memo of November 10 contained the mandate of the Task Force. That memo underlined the words "advising" and "the role that departments should play." The broader mandate could consider the implications on teaching, admissions quotas, etc. Those who came forward to serve on the Committee should have understood that in the first instance, those two items had to be discussed. The Committee is only responsible for following the directives of the memo. Afterwards, however, the Task Force could return to Council to explain why it wanted a broader mandate.

Brown commented that if no problems with the implementation of the GPA were encountered, a Task Force would not be needed. Also, should the Task Force find that the problems of implementation were insurmountable, it should have the right to return to Council to present that conclusion.

Sharma requested fifteen minutes to present his case.

The Dean reminded Sharma that the item on the table was the ratification of the membership. The agenda did not call for a debate of the GPA requirement. Should this be the intent of his intervention, he would have to be ruled out of order.

Levy suggested that perhaps Sharma's argument should be presented under Other Business. Preston informed Council Sharma had received a reply to his memo from the Steering Committee assuring him that the matter would receive the attention of Council. It was decided to allow Sharma to speak under other business.

# 9. Double Majors in the Faculty of Arts and Science

It was moved and seconded (Widden/Ruby) that students be allowed to apply to add a major programme normally offered as part of a BA degree to a BSc degree or vice versa.

The Dean explained that it had come to his attention that in the Faculty of Arts and Science it was not possible to take a major in a Science subject along with a major in an Arts subject. The Registrar stated that this was simply a carryover from the time when the Faculties of Arts and Science were separate.

Goodman stated that, according to the Calendar, there was a very specific list of double majors allowable; how liberal would the suggested combinations actually be.

Frost asked whether "...prerequisite courses" actually meant "courses" or whether it meant "... prerequisite DEC". The Dean responded that it meant "prerequisite DEC."

Regimbald stated that out-of-province students interested in Montreal due to its exposure to French often would like a major in French along with their Science major.

Sheps felt it was an exemplary idea so long as standards were not diluted, shortcuts were not permitted, and pre-requisites were met.

Shulman supported the concept, and asked if one could go further and consider co-operation across or between Faculties.

Dicks gave an example of a student in Art History, for whom Chemistry would be very useful. He felt it would be worthwhile to promote the idea of joint degrees, joint programmes, etc.

Byers asked if a student was in the Arts and wanted to take a major in Science, would he have to have a complete CEGEP DEC in Science, or would it be sufficient to have prerequisites in the subject that he proposed to take.

The Dean explained that some students who have the pre-requisites to get into Science want to major in one of the Humanities or Social Sciences. He stated that the opposite rarely occurred.

Brian stated that several mature students had expressed an interest in this type of combination, but that mature entry requirements in Science already represent a heavy load.

White wished to know who would decide which degree a student combining majors would have conferred. The Dean replied that it would be the choice of the student providing the student had all of the necessary requirements to be allowed into that degree programme.

Goodman asked when this would come into effect, and was told 1991-92.

#### CARRIED

# 10. Establishment of a mechanism to review all undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts and Science

The Dean stated that Steering Committee was accepting suggestions on what type of motion to present at the next Council meeting. For example, should one committee study all programs, a very lengthy task, or should several committees be established.

Knitter wondered if the review would be similar to those of graduate programmes. He asked whether outside experts would take part. Although he agreed with the concept, he wanted to know more about the proposed plan of action

Vice-Dean Dicks suspected that it would become a required part of the Faculty's long-term planning process in the near future, if not at its insistance, at Quebec's. He suggested looking at what was done in other Universities, as the graduate process was very time consuming considering the number of programmes involved. He stated that Curriculum Committee could attempt to seek alternatives and decide on a reasonably efficient and effective mechanism.

90-1-9 It was moved and seconded (Knitter/Byers) that Council mandate the Curriculum Committee to report back at the March meeting on possible mechanisms to review undergraduate programmes in the Faculty of Arts and Science.

## CARRIED

## 11. Other Business

Dr. Sharma begged the indulgence of Council, but he felt it imperative that he spend a few minutes discussing the GPA.

#### Next Meeting

Friday, February 9, at 1330 hrs, in AD-131, Loyola Campus.

#### 13. Adjournment

90-1-10 It was moved and seconded (Goodman/Albert) that the meeting be adjourned.